



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

In general, the work possesses the merits as well as the defects of the earlier edition. It is characterized by the same simplicity, clearness and vivacity of style, as well as by the same off-hand dismissal of views that do not accord with the author's own. Its exposition of French tax problems and its criticism of certain tendencies in French practice leave little to be desired. But its very merit in this respect is the measure of its shortcomings as a treatise on general systems of taxation. The general theoretical discussion and the description of foreign tax systems and experience are not only summary and incomplete in themselves, but are also significantly subordinated to the explaining and solving of French problems. This tendency comes out nowhere more clearly than in the last chapter, in which the recommended fiscal reforms all have reference strictly to French conditions and needs. This may be entirely germane to the author's main purpose, but in such case some modification of the title of the work would not be amiss.

ROSSELL C. MCCREA.

BOWDOIN COLLEGE.

Agricultural and Pastoral Prospects of South Africa. By OWEN THOMAS. London, Archibald Constable & Co., Ltd., 1904. —viii, 335 pp., map.

The Business Side of Agriculture. By A. G. L. ROGERS. London, Methuen & Co., 1904.—159 pp.

The History of Agriculture in Dane County, Wisconsin. By B. H. HIBBARD. *Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin*, no. 101, 1904.—146 pp.

Each of these three volumes is an important contribution to the literature of agricultural economics. A historical and comparative study of the agriculture of the various countries of the world is the necessary basis for any comprehensive treatment of the economic problems in agriculture; and these volumes, treating of widely separated countries where soil, climate, population and facilities for marketing the produce are very different, are especially useful in helping the student to distinguish between the rules which apply only to specific localities at a given time and the underlying principles which are true for all places and at all times.

The principal topics included in Mr. Thomas's discussion of the agricultural and pastoral prospects of South Africa are the soil, the

climate, the characteristics of the people, the products, the markets, the organization of agriculture, including coöperation, agricultural credit and land tenure. The book will prove interesting and valuable both to the student of economic geography and to the student of agricultural economics. The author draws many interesting contrasts between England and South Africa, which emphasize the relativity of all the rules of husbandry. For example, whereas deep plowing is an indication of sound farming in England it seems to be detrimental in South Africa. The principal field crops are wheat, maize, Kaffir corn, potatoes and tobacco. Experiments are being made in the cultivation of cotton, and it is believed that the "cotton industry has an exceedingly bright future." But none of these products have made any appreciable impression as yet upon the world market and there is little chance that they will. "South Africa may be said to be a barren country. The exceptions to the rule lie in the more humid districts From the agricultural and pastoral point of view, the weather of South Africa is extremely unsatisfactory." Stock farming is the most profitable industry in most parts of the country, and the conditions for this industry are not especially attractive. The pastures are so poor that from ten to twenty acres are required per head of cattle. The climate is such that the cattle must be able to withstand great and sudden changes of temperature, which makes the development of the more valuable types very difficult.

While specially recommending South Africa as a stock-raising country (when animal disease is eradicated or at least controlled), I do not wish to imply that it is the best or even the second best stock-raising country in the world. If, however, it is selected by the immigrant for its healthy and bracing climate, and its many other advantages over other countries, then I say that (of all farming industries) stock-farming undoubtedly is the most promising.

The size of farms in South Africa may be of interest to those who are now interested in the disposition of those parts of our public domain which are fitted only for grazing purposes.

There are three kinds of farms : (a) farms under 1,000 acres ; (b) farms of about 3,000 acres ; (c) farms of 6,000 acres and upward. Where the veld is poor, a farm of 40,000 acres is not uncommon. But the majority of farms contain about 3,000 acres . . . Land which will carry only one beast to twenty acres, must be farmed on a large scale ; for 1,000 acres are equal to no more than fifty acres in England. A farmer, (a stock-farmer especially), who only had a fifty-acre farm in England, would be a very small

farmer, and a South African farmer who only had a 1,000-acre farm would be his equal. This is the reason, and the only reason, why the Boers are not satisfied with less than 3,000 acres. They cannot live on less.

Mr. Rogers's book on the *Business Side of Agriculture* is a study of the economic problems of the English farmer, with especial reference to the methods of marketing farm products. The first chapter deals with the farmer and his markets. The fact is especially emphasized that the English farmer is a business man, that he "seeks to make money exactly as the manufacturer does." It is necessary for the English farmers to be distinctively commercial agriculturists, because they are practically all tenant farmers and invariably pay a cash rent, and because they depend more largely upon the markets for the articles of every-day consumption than do the farmers of most other countries. These demands for money make it necessary for the farmer to center his thought and energy upon the one problem of putting upon the market those products which will best replenish his bank account. Chapters ii and iii are devoted to a discussion of the "traditional methods" of marketing the various products of the farm, including cereals, hops, fruits, vegetables, live-stock and live-stock products. Especial attention is given to the methods of marketing wheat in America and in England. The great variety of weights and measures which still remain in use in the rural districts of England and the different methods of making sales are described in considerable detail. But to the English farmer the marketing of live-stock and dairy products is more important than the marketing of grain. "Barely one-seventh of the supply of wheat consumed by the nation is grown in these islands, while more than one-half of the meat eaten at home is home-bred." There are two methods commonly used in disposing of live-stock. The first is by direct sale; the second by auction. Where the first method is used the custom is for the seller to seek his purchasers by advertising widely in the agricultural and other newspapers. The most common method of selling live-stock, however, is by auction. The auctions take place most commonly at the markets which are found in nearly every large town. The final chapter is devoted to a discussion of "some of the schemes that have been devised in recent years by persons or organizations interested in the prosperity of the agricultural classes to assist them to dispose of their produce to a better advantage."

Dr. Hibbard's monograph is an economic study of the agriculture of Dane County, Wisconsin, from the earliest settlement of the country to the present time. It traces the changes which have taken place in the

system of farming and seeks to find the causes of these changes. The settlement of Wisconsin, the character of the immigrants, the selection of land and the precautions taken against land grabbing are interesting subjects taken up in the introduction. The discussion of the agriculture of the earlier period centers about wheat production, whereas that of the later period centers about the development of the dairy industry, the introduction of tobacco culture and the rise and the fall of the hop industry. The main object of this monograph is to outline the economic influences which made necessary the transition from the one-crop system, with wheat as the staple, to the complex farm organization of the present time, with cheese production, butter production and tobacco culture as locally specialized industries superimposed upon a basis of mixed farming. The book emphasizes the fact that the welfare of the farmer is closely dependent upon the industrial and commercial conditions in the larger world of which he is a part; that in this larger world changes are constantly taking place which affect the prices of the products which the farmer has to sell and upon which his profits depend; that, as a result of these changes, the lines of production which are at one time most profitable may, at another time and under changed conditions as to market relations, prove relatively unprofitable; and that the farmer must ever be alert if he would so adjust the organization of his farm to the demands of the market as to secure the largest profit. It is shown that the conservatism which leads the farmer to adhere to obsolete customs, when it is clearly to his interest to reorganize his farm operations, is one of the reasons why the necessary economic changes cause so much loss and suffering; but the difficulties which the farmer has to meet in readjusting himself to changed conditions are also pointed out. It often happens that the necessary reorganization is expensive and that the farmer has not the money and can not secure the credit necessary for making the change. And, again, the conditions which influence the prices of farm products are so complex that it is very difficult, if not impossible, for the farmer to distinguish between temporary and permanent changes in the prices of his produce. This proved to be especially true in the hop industry. The book impresses upon the mind of the reader that the farmer must not only be alert in the carrying out of the operations of the farm, but he must be a man well informed on the price-determining forces, and an habitual thinker on the problems of farm economy, if he is to secure from his land and labor the greatest possible profits.

HENRY C. TAYLOR.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.